



The Ehlers e-Newsletter

For the Week of July 19, 2004

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News from Congressman Ehlers ...

EHLERS' NOAA ORGANIC ACT RECEIVES THE ENDORSEMENT OF SCIENCE GROUPS – Organizations representing ocean and weather researchers Thursday endorsed Environment, Technology, and Standards Subcommittee Chairman Vernon Ehlers' proposed organic act (H.R. 4546) for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

For more information, please read the press release on our website:

http://www.house.gov/apps/list/press/mi03_ehlers/071504NOAAOrganic.html

EKHS GRADUATE'S ARTWORK DISPLAYED AT U.S. CAPITOL – Joining more than 300 other high school student artists from around the country, Monica Marcoux proudly saw her artwork displayed in the U.S. Capitol Tuesday during the opening of the 2004 Congressional Arts Competition exhibition, titled "An Artistic Discovery."

For more information and photos of Monica's artwork, please visit our website:

http://www.house.gov/apps/list/press/mi03_ehlers/071304MarcouxArt.html

THIS WEEK IN THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES MONDAY, JULY 19, 2004

On Monday, the House will meet at 12:30 p.m. for morning hour and 2 p.m. for legislative business. Votes will be postponed until 6:30 p.m.

Suspensions (16 bills):

(Bills on suspension are generally considered non-controversial and have reduced debate time, but require a two-thirds majority vote to be passed.)

- 1) **H.Res. 714 - Honoring Sandra Feldman on the occasion of her retirement from the presidency of the American Federation of Teachers for her tireless efforts to improve the quality of teaching and learning**
- 2) **H.R. 4492 - To amend the Omnibus Parks and Public Lands Management Act of 1996 to extend the authorization for certain national heritage areas**
- 3) **H.R. 4625 - Soda Ash Royalty Reduction Act of 2004:** Instructs the Secretary of the Interior to report to Congress on the effects of such royalty reduction, including: (1) the amount of sodium compounds and related products at point of shipment to market ; (2) the number of jobs created or maintained during such

- reduction period; (3) the total amount of royalty paid to the United States and the portion to the States; and (4) a recommendation of whether the reduced royalty rate should apply after the end of the five-year period beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act. H.R. 4625 will temporarily reduce the royalty rate on sodium to 2 percent for five years.
- 4) **H.R. 3874 - To convey for public purposes certain Federal lands in Riverside County, CA**
 - 5) **H.R. 4115 - To amend the Act of 11/2/66, to allow binding arbitration clauses to be included in all contracts affecting the land within the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Reservation**
 - 6) **H.R. 1156 - To amend the Reclamation Wastewater and Groundwater Study and Facilities Act to increase the ceiling on the Federal share of the costs of phase I of the Orange County, CA, Regional Water Reclamation Project**
 - 7) **H.R. 2831 - Newlands Project Headquarters and Maintenance Yard Facility Transfer Act**
 - 8) **H.R. 1014 - Gateway Communities Cooperation Act:** Requires federal land managers to support, and to communicate, coordinate, and cooperate with, designated gateway communities, to improve the ability of gateway communities to participate in Federal land management planning conducted by the Forest Service and agencies of the Department of the Interior, and to respond to the impacts of the public use of the Federal lands administered by these agencies, and for other purposes. Communities that are adjacent to units of the National Park System, National Wildlife Refuge System, National Forest System and other units of our federal lands system are impacted by decisions made by managers of these public lands. In many cases, these “gateway communities” also play an integral role in accomplishing the mission of these federal land managers by providing necessary services, such as schools, roads, search and rescue, emergency and medical support, drinking water and sanitary systems. The bill defines a “gateway community” as a county, city, town, village or other subdivision of a state (or a federally-recognized American Indian tribe or Alaska Native Village) that is: (1) incorporated or recognized in a county or regional land use plan or within tribal jurisdictional boundaries; and (2) is significantly affected economically, socially, or environmentally by the planning and management decisions regarding federal lands administered by the Secretaries of the Interior and Agriculture (as determined by a federal land manager or the head of a state tourism office).
 - 9) **H.R. 2619 - Kilauea Point National Wildlife Refuge Expansion Act of 2003**
 - 10) **H.R. 2991 - Inland Empire Regional Water Recycling Initiative**
 - 11) **H.R. 3785 - To authorize the exchange of certain land in Everglades National Park**
 - 12) **H.R. 3819 - Lewis and Clark National Historical Park Designation Act of 2004:** Redesignates the Fort Clatsop National Memorial in Oregon as the Lewis and Clark National Historical Park and expand its boundaries to include three sites in the state of Washington. The bill authorizes the National Park Service (NPS) to acquire real property within the boundaries of the historical park by purchase, donation, exchange, or transfer. Under the bill, the NPS (after receiving funding) will have three years to update the existing general management plan for

Fort Clatsop and one year to complete a study of eastern sites associated with the Lewis and Clark expedition. The bill also authorizes the appropriation of whatever amounts are necessary for these purposes.

- 13) H.R. 142 - To amend the Reclamation Wastewater and Groundwater Study and Facilities Act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to participate in the Inland Empire regional water recycling project, to authorize the Secretary to carry out a program to assist agencies in projects to construct regional brine lines in California, and to authorize the Secretary to participate in the Lower Chino Dairy Area desalination demonstration and reclamation project**
- 14) H.R. 3932 - To amend Public Law 99-338 to authorize the continued use of certain lands within the Sequoia National Park by portions of an existing hydroelectric project**
- 15) H.R. 4158 - To provide for the conveyance to the Government of Mexico of a decommissioned National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration ship:**
Directs the Secretary of Commerce to convey to the Government of Mexico the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration vessel WHITING: (1) for use as a hydrographic survey platform in support of activities of the United States-Mexico Charting Advisors Committee; and (2) to enhance coordination and cooperation between such countries with respect to hydrographic surveying and nautical charting activities in the border waters of the Gulf of Mexico and Pacific Ocean.
- 16) H.R. 4170 - Department of the Interior Volunteer Recruitment Act of 2004:**
authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to recruit, train and accept the services of individuals as volunteers, for aiding in or facilitating the activities of the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the U.S. Geological Survey, the Bureau of Reclamation, and the Office of the Secretary. For two of the agencies with current statutory authority to accept volunteers - the Bureau of Reclamation and the U.S. Geological Survey - the authority is lacking in certain aspects. The legislation will not permit the use of volunteers in law enforcement positions, on private property, and performing hazardous duty (with limited exceptions). In addition, volunteers may not at any time replace a permanent employee. The Secretary of the Interior shall also ensure appropriate supervision of each volunteer. Finally, the bill authorizes the Secretary to provide services and costs incidental to the utilization of volunteers and clarifies their status as employees.

TUESDAY, JULY 20, 2004

On Tuesday, the House will meet at 9 a.m. for morning hour and 10 a.m. for legislative business.

Suspensions (8 bills):

- 1) H.R. 4259 - Department of Homeland Security Financial Accountability Act:**
Amends the Chief Financial Officer Act of 1990 and the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to direct the President to appoint a Chief Financial Officer (CFO) for the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), who is to report directly to the Secretary of DHS and to the Under Secretary for Management.

- 2) **H.R. 3478 - National Archives and Records Administration Efficiency Act of 2003:** Requires the Archivist of the United States to promulgate regulations establishing a streamlined process for extending agency records retention periods beyond those periods specified in disposal schedules.
- 3) **H.R. 4608 - Bob Michel Department of Veterans Affairs Outpatient Clinic Designation Act (*Peoria, Illinois*).**
- 4) **H.R. 3936 - To amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize the principal office of the United States Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims to be at any location in the Washington, D.C., metropolitan area**
- 5) **H.R. 4175 – Veterans’ Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2004:** Provides, effective December 1, 2004, a cost-of-living adjustment to the rates of disability compensation for veterans with service-connected disabilities and to the rates of dependency and indemnity compensation for survivors of certain service-connected disabled veterans. The percentage amount would be equal to the increase for benefits provided under the Social Security Act, which is calculated based upon changes in the Consumer Price Index.
- 6) **S.J.Res. 38 - Providing for the appointment of Eli Broad as a citizen regent of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution**
- 7) **S. 2362 - To authorize construction of a Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory instrumentation support control building and associated site development on Kitt Peak, Arizona**
- 8) **H.R. 4816 - To permit the Librarian of Congress to hire Library of Congress Police employees**

H.R. XXXX - District of Columbia Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2005:

Provides the District of Columbia \$560 million for Fiscal Year 2005, up from \$542 million for FY04 and approximately equal to the Administration’s request of \$560.3 million.

H.R. 3574 - Stock Option Accounting Reform Act: Requires recognition of an expense only with respect to highly compensated executives, set conditions for measurement and recognition, exempt small businesses among others, and delay implementation pending completion of a study.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 21, 2004 AND THE BALANCE OF THE WEEK

On Wednesday and Thursday, the House will meet at 10 a.m. On Friday, the House will meet at 9 a.m.

Suspensions (13 bills):

- 1) **H.R. 4840 - To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to simplify the taxation of businesses:** Helps small business by encouraging investment and simplifying bookkeeping and tax reporting requirements.
- 2) **H.R. 4841 - To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to simplify certain tax rules for individuals:** Does several things to simplify tax filing, including terminating the IRS’s confusing use of inconsistent definitions regarding a taxpayer’s age; clarifying the “Head of Household” filing status to reduce errors

- in filing status; increasing access to the time-saving 1040A and 1040EZ forms; and eliminating a number of outdated and unnecessary provisions in the tax code.
- 3) **S. 741 - Minor Use and Minor Species Animal Health Act of 2003:** Addresses the critical shortage of animal drugs available for minor species, which are defined as animals other than humans that are not major species (cattle, horses, swine, chickens, turkeys, dogs, and cats), and for minor uses for major species, which are defined as the use of a drug in a major species for a disease that occurs infrequently in a small number of animals, or in limited geographic areas in a small number of animals annually. The bill does so by creating new ways for animal drugs to be legally marketed.
 - 4) **H.R. 4600 - Junk Fax Prevention Act of 2004:** Re-establishes an "established business relationship" exception to allow entities to send commercial faxes to their customers and members without first receiving written permission, and establishes new opt-out safeguards to provide additional protections for fax recipients.
 - 5) **H.Res. 647 - Supporting the goals of National Marina Day and urging marinas to continue providing environmentally friendly gateways to boating**
 - 6) **H.R. 3884** - Hipolito F. Garcia Federal Building and United States Courthouse Building Designation Act (*San Antonio, Texas*)
 - 7) **H.R. 4056 - Commercial Aviation MANPADS Defense Act of 2004:** Encourages the President to pursue further strong international diplomatic and cooperative efforts, including bilateral and multilateral treaties, in the appropriate forum to limit the availability, transfer, and proliferation of man-portable air defense systems (MANPADS) worldwide, and then to assure the destruction of excess, obsolete, and illicit stocks of MANPADS worldwide. A Committee amendment will be incorporated reflecting an agreement with the House International Relations Committee to further clarify the types of agreements the President is encouraged to enter into with governments of foreign countries.
 - 8) **H.R. 4011 - North Korean Human Rights Act of 2004:** In terms of human rights, the bill underscores the importance of human rights issues in future negotiations with North Korea, and authorizes funding for programs to promote human rights, democracy, rule of law, and a market economy inside North Korea. It also authorizes funding to increase the availability of information sources not controlled by the North Korean government. Finally, it urges additional North Korea-specific attention by appropriate United Nations (UN) human rights authorities. On the humanitarian front, the legislation authorizes increased funding for humanitarian assistance to North Koreans outside of North Korea. It also attempts to secure greater transparency for humanitarian aid delivered inside North Korea by authorizing a significant increase in such aid, but connects increases to substantive improvements in monitoring and access. Finally, it conditions direct aid to the North Korean government on human rights and transparency benchmarks, but allows the President to waive those restrictions for national security purposes after reporting to Congress.
 - 9) **H.Res. 652 - Urging the Government of the Republic of Belarus to ensure a democratic, transparent, and fair election process for its parliamentary elections in the fall of 2004**

- 10) H.R. 4660 - To amend the Millennium Challenge Act of 2003 to extend the authority to provide assistance to countries seeking to become eligible countries for purposes of that Act**
- 11) H.Con.Res. 418 - Recognizing the importance in history of the 150th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the United States and Japan**
- 12) H.Con.Res. 436 - Celebrating 10 years of majority rule in the Republic of South Africa**
- 13) H.Con.Res. 469 - Condemning the attack on the AMIA Jewish Community Center in Buenos Aires, Argentina, in July 1994**

H.R. 4837 - Military Construction Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2005:

Recommends total funding of \$10.003 billion, which is \$450 million above the Administration request and \$162 million above the fiscal year 2004 enacted level.

H.R. 3313 - Marriage Protection Act of 2003: Seeks to prevent Federal judges from striking down the provision of the Defense of Marriage Act (28 U.S.C. § 1738C), which provides that no state shall be required to accept same-sex marriage licenses granted in other states.

H.R. 4842 - United States-Morocco Free Trade Implementation Act

*** Possible Motions to go to Conference**

*** Possible Motions to Instruct Conferees**

Historical Tidbits

On July 19 ...

1974 - The House Judiciary Committee recommended that U.S. President Richard Nixon should stand trial in the Senate for any of the five impeachment charges against him.

1975 - The *Apollo* and *Soyuz* spacecrafts separated after being linked in orbit for two days.

On July 20 ...

1868 - Legislation that ordered U.S. tax stamps to be placed on all cigarette packs was passed.

1969 - *Apollo 11* astronauts Neil Armstrong and Edwin E. Aldrin, Jr. became the first men to walk on the moon.

1976 - America's *Viking I* robot spacecraft made a successful landing on Mars.

1982 - U.S. President Ronald Reagan pulled the U.S. out of comprehensive test ban negotiations indefinitely.

On July 21 ...

1861 - The first major battle of the U.S. Civil War began. It was the Battle of Bull Run at Manassas Junction, VA. The Confederates won the battle.

1930 - The Veterans' Administration of the United States was established.

1949 - The U.S. Senate ratified the North Atlantic Treaty.

On July 22 ...

1937 - The U.S. Senate rejected President Roosevelt's proposal to add more justices to the Supreme Court.

On July 23 ...

1938 - The first federal game preserve was approved by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The area was 2,000 acres in Utah.

(Information from <http://www.on-this-day.com>)

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